



PATENT  
Attorney Docket 56100-5002-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Allen C. **SPRADLING** *et al.* )  
 )  
Application No. 09/358,937 ) Group Art Unit: 1632  
 )  
Filed: July 23, 1999 ) Examiner: J. T. Woitach  
 )  
For: **METHOD FOR MAINTENANCE** )  
 **AND PROPAGATION OF** )  
 **GERMLINE STEM CELLS USING** )  
 **MEMBERS OF THE TGF- $\beta$  FAMILY** )  
 **OF GROWTH FACTORS** )

AMENDMENT & REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.111

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This Reply is responsive to the Office Action dated July 17, 2002, the time period for response to which expired October 17, 2002. An extension of time for three months is being filed concurrently, thereby extending the period for response to January 17, 2003. Entry of the following amendments and reconsideration of the claimed subject matter is respectfully requested:

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claim 50.

Kindly consider the following amended claims:

33. (Twice Amended) A method for maintaining *Drosophila* stem cells *in vivo* comprising:
- (a) providing a population comprised of stem cells, and